



# LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST PROHIBITION

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For Senate Bill 1015

Submitted By: John Lorenzo, on behalf of  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST PROHIBITION (LEAP)**

RE: Support for Senate Bill 1015, An act concerning the palliative use of marijuana  
Joint Committee on Judiciary  
Monday, March 14, 10:00am, Room 2C of the LOB

Thank you for the opportunity to present the views of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) in favor of Senate Bill 1015. As a law enforcement officer here in Connecticut, I fought against the drug war for 20 years when I served as the Chief of Marine Police for Lake Lillinonah Authority in Brookfield. I am a speaker for LEAP, an organization of 40,000 current and former criminal justice professionals and civilian supporters. We are cops, sheriffs, prosecutors, judges, prison guards and others from nearly every level of law enforcement. Like other law enforcement organizations, LEAP does not endorse or condone the use of marijuana or any other drug.

As a former officer, I know that the voice of police is crucial in the dialogue about our current drug policy, which is wasteful and ineffective. But in the case of medical marijuana, patients, physicians, and caregivers, are the ones who should be making decisions about medical care. It is inappropriate for the police to substitute our judgment for that of physicians and those in need of medical care.

One area where law enforcement is qualified to speak regarding medical marijuana is in the area of public safety. Current drug policy prevents police from solving significant crimes because their time is squandered chasing marijuana law violators. This is an especially absurd waste of time when the so-called violators are medical marijuana patients simply trying to obtain the medication recommended by their doctors. This bill will give clear direction to law enforcement on all types of procedural matters surrounding medical marijuana patients. Senate Bill 1015 provides necessary protection for patients who have debilitating medical conditions.

When it comes to the message we are sending our children about medical marijuana, the message should be the same as for any other medicine: that medicine helps sick people and is to be used only under a doctor's care.

We urge all of you to take the opinions of doctors, caregivers, and patients into account and support Senate Bill 1015. Thank you for your time.